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Hybrid aircraft

Engineers are nearing success in an old quest: to build aircraft that can lift straight up from the ground, hover in midair, then cruise off horizontally at high speed. Two "convertiplanes" are giving shape to this vision: the V-22 Osprey tilt-rotor and the X-wing. Each uses a different approach to achieve helicopter-airplane characteristics. **Page 44**



Superconductors

The world of physics is in a state of excitement unseen for decades. Why? Superconductors have come in from the cold. The consequences—high-temperature superconductors—will change our lives. **Page 54**



Raise the ranch roof

This single-story house had a cramped layout, hemmed in by a small lot and backyard pool. With nowhere to go but up, a story was added for bedrooms. **Page 66**



Compact challenge

Honda Accord, Nissan Stanza, Toyota Camry, and Renault Medallion threaten Detroit's dominance of the family-car market. Our car test tries to find which is the strongest challenger. **Page 24**



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JIM BENNET—ALPHA (TOP); PETER TURNLEY FOR NEWSWEEK

